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Chief, Foreign Division M

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

CAMISE - Progress Report

Synopsis: Camise continues in her position as chief of the Telegraf's Frankfurt Bureau. The Frankfurt edition of the paper was discontinued because of economic reasons and there has been a gradual reduction in the size of the Frankfurt staff. This has affected Camise's morale. Her situation is complicated further by an unhappy love affair. As a result Camise's production is not commensurate with her intellectual capabilities and her opportunities for gathering information.

1. A review of Camise's six-months' activity as chief of the Frankfurt Telegraf Bureau shows that this project has thus far failed to produce the results which we expected from it. There has been no change in Camise's loyalty to us and there is nothing wrong with the basic idea of the project, i.e. that a leading staff member of a large German newspaper will have access to information which is not readily available to Allied representatives, especially after a large-scale withdrawal of American personnel now in Germany. Various circumstances, however, tended to decrease the anticipated effectiveness of Camise, among them the decline in the influence of the Telegraf and of the SPD, and the fact that, after the choice of Bonn as Federal Capital, there has been a very considerable reduction in the political importance of Frankfurt. The last reason especially affected greatly the Camise project. She would have liked to move to Bonn, like most other important correspondents did, but this was for the time being prevented by Camlet's conviction that the head of the Bonn bureau must be an older man with well-developed political connections of his own.

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2. When Camise came to Frankfurt in June 1949, she became the head of the Western German edition of the Berlin Telegraf. The Western German edition was identical to some extent with the Berlin newspaper, but in addition to the standard features it carried considerable material of primary interest to the Western Zones. It was, in fact, an independent newspaper from a technical point of view. It had a staff of about thirty and as head of the Frankfurt office Camise had an important position which satisfied her intellectually and materially and which tended to make her forget her unhappy love affair with Dr. Joseph Grunner, formerly her immediate superior in the Berlin Telegraf office. From a financial point of view, the Telegraf's West German edition was not a success; while it did not lose much money, it was a deficit proposition from the beginning. This did not matter as long as the parent paper in Berlin kept making money. The introduction of the West Mark as sole legal tender in West Berlin, the gradual deterioration in Berlin's financial and economic position after the lifting of the blockade, and the growing unemployment combined to put a very heavy strain on the resources of the West Berlin newspapers. (This problem is quite well known and I need not discuss it in this memorandum.) To make a long story short, the Telegraf suffered along with the other dailies and had to reduce its own expenses very radically. First to feel the necessary cuts were, quite naturally, the various deficit enterprises supported by the Berlin paper. During the summer, however, the Frankfurt Telegraf was continued, both to give the SPD an additional information medium in the West and to preserve the structure and the staff as the cadre for a real big Telegraf in the West, in case the SPD won the election and located the capital in Frankfurt. The sad end to the story (i.e., the SPD's defeat in the 14 August elections) is well known. As a result the West German Telegraf edition was discontinued in October 1949 and since then the staff of approximately thirty has been reduced to eight, with Camise still chief of the office. This development, while by no means a reflection on Camise's ability and professional standing, has nevertheless discouraged her considerably and aggravated her other emotional problems.

3. Camise's love affair with Dr. Joseph Grunner belongs in this progress report only insofar as it affects our agent's performance. Their involvement started while Camise was assistant to Grunner in Berlin. While the two complement each other to a certain degree, the affair was slightly unrealistic from the beginning because of the fact that Grunner had a wife and two children for whom, while professing no great love, he still felt financially and otherwise responsible. After extended arguments Dr. Grunner proceeded to break up the "romance", with the result that ever since then Camise has been in a state of depression. She eats very little, takes very little interest in her professional activities and behaves generally

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according to the popular concept of some one with a "broken heart". Coupled with the economic difficulties of her paper, the general decline of SPD influence, and the location of the capital at Bonn, it is no wonder that Camise's intelligence reporting has failed to reach the anticipated standards.

4. The economic and emotional crises have greatly strengthened Camise's loyalty to and dependence on us. She feels that during these trying times, when she had been deserted by her physical love and greatly disappointed by her ideological love, i.e. the SPD, her case officers [] and myself) remained the only ones who stood by her. She is willing more than ever to work on our behalf, but her good intentions are continually frustrated by her depressive mental state due to the Grunner affair. Thus we have a situation where we have a controlled agent with the necessary intellectual qualifications in a desirable position, who is unable to produce because of emotional difficulties which are completely beyond our control. An unsatisfactory and unreasonable situation, we are sure you will agree with us, but we must remember that Camise is not merely an agent - she is also a woman.

5. Regarding our future course, I believe it would be best to persuade Camlet to transfer Camise away from Frankfurt, either to Berlin, where she has a number of personal friends and the permanent stimulant of being part of a great enterprise (i.e. the Telegraf), or to Bonn, where the intellectual challenge facing her might shock her out of her present state of mind. I do not believe that Camise's continued presence in Frankfurt could benefit either us or the Telegraf and I will so advise Camlet the next time I see him.

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